



January 24, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Health Committee
900 Court St. NE, #S-211
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 409: Oregon Wholesale Importation of Prescription Drugs Act: Oppose

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson:

Sanofi, a global healthcare leader, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions focused on patients' needs. Sanofi is organized into five global business units: Diabetes and Cardiovascular, General Medicines and Emerging Markets, Sanofi Genzyme, Sanofi Pasteur and Consumer Healthcare.

Sanofi respectfully opposes SB 409 and submits the following comments for your consideration.

Part 2. Wholesale Importation of Prescription Drugs:

- Section 2 (1) finds ‘That a state agency become a licensed wholesaler for the purpose of seeking federal certification and approval to import safe prescription drugs that will provide savings to Oregon consumers.’ However, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is charged with making the same certification to Congress before authorizing importation from Canada under 21 U.S.C. Section 384(k)(1). **To date, there has not been a single HHS Secretary who has been able to make this certification.**
- There is no reliable way to verify the quality and safety of imported medicines from Canada. Canadian law does not regulate the transshipment of drugs from any country—including those that are known sources of dangerous counterfeit medicines—into Canada and then into the United States, exacerbating concerns about the safety and reliability of these medicines.

A specific example of these concerns can be found in the following case study:

Sanofi’s most recent experience is with our Synvisc® product. It is an injectable visco-supplement for knee pain. The product is manufactured in Ridgefield, NJ and shipped in pre-filled syringes worldwide. Approved indications vary between countries. The product must be maintained a specific temperature to maintain product efficacy and thus requires careful distribution practices. Sanofi has been part of several counterfeit and

diverted drug investigations, including a UK seizure where diverted and counterfeit pharmaceutical products had been consolidated and sent from China, through a free trade zone in the UAE, through the UK to the Bahamas. There, the product was packaged for shipment into the US to fulfill orders placed through a number of "Canadian pharmacies." At the time it was raided by authorities, this small warehouse held \$3.75 M of diverted Synvisc and a number of other counterfeit Rx products, all headed for patients in the US.

We share your concerns about the affordability of medicines, and we believe deeply in the important role we play in providing treatments for serious illnesses. We have committed to pricing our medicines with greater transparency and according to their value, while continuing to advance scientific knowledge and bringing life-saving treatments to patients worldwide.

For these reasons we ask that you oppose SB 409. If you have any questions please contact me at (206) 320-0536, or Deanne.calvert@sanofi.com.

Sincerely,



Deanne Calvert
Sanofi U.S.
Head, State Government Relations

cc: Members of the Senate Health Committee